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J.C.S. 1907/222

15 July 1959

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

MEETING OF U.S. COORDINATING GROUP,
BERLIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING (U)

Reference: J.C.S. 1907/190 - 9171 Berlin/7105/5

The enclosed Memorandum for Record by the Joint Chiefs of Staff Representative to the U.S. Coordinating Group, Berlin Contingency Planning, dated 13 July 1959, together with its attachments (Appendices "A" and "B"), is circulated for information.

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H. L. HILLYARD,

J. O. COBB,

Joint Secretariat.

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ENCLOSURE

13 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Meeting of U.S. Coordinating Group,
Berlin Contingency Planning

1. A meeting of the subject Group was held at 1045 hours,
10 July 1959. Principal attendance was as follows:

STATE: Mr. Murphy
Mr. Kohler
Mr. Hillenbrand
Mr. McKiernan
Mr. Duemling

OSD: Mr. Knight
General Guthrie

JCS: General Fields
Colonel Wilbraham
Colonel Fawell

2. The following items were discussed:

a. It was agreed that at the Ambassadorial Group meeting, that followed, the U.S. side would inform the U.K. and France that the United States has requested additional information from the Embassy at Bonn on air access procedures, and proposed methods of passing flight information to the East German authorities, in the event that a joint decision to do so is made.

3. a. Mr. Knight presented the paper at Appendix "A" ("More Elaborate Military Measures"), prepared by General Fields and urged the U.S. side to inform the U.K. and French of its contents.

b. General Fields stated that it was most important for the Three Powers to support General Norstad in the preparation of a plan for "More Elaborate Military Measures" (substantial use of force) (Appendix "A").

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c. Mr. Murphy agreed with Mr. Knight and General Fields that Appendix "A" should be read to the Ambassadors of U.K. and France.

4. a. General Fields recommended that the agreements as set forth in Appendix "B" (Berlin Contingency Planning for Air) be approved by the U.S. Government and that it be announced at the Ambassadorial Group meeting scheduled to follow.

b. Mr. Kohler suggested that we hold up decision until State Department staff can study the problem. Mr. Murphy agreed. It should be noted that at the Ambassadorial meeting that followed, Mr. Kohler indicated that the United States is giving approval to the agreement on air contingency planning.

d. Mr. Murphy approved JCS and OSD's recommendation that "General Norstad should be authorized to exercise command of Live Oak forces from SHAPE and to use NATO communication facilities, if he finds it necessary". In addition, Mr. Murphy approved JCS and OSD's recommendation that "NATO Council be informed of or consulted on any military action by the Three Powers.

/s/ L. J. FIELDS
Brig. General, USMC
JCS Representative to the
Coordinating Group

APPENDIX "A"

Subject: Berlin Contingency Planning: More Elaborate
Military Measures (LIVE OAK) (S)

1. It is proposed that the following statement be made at the 10 June Ambassadorial Group Meeting:

a. We believe it most important that the Three Governments support General Norstad in his planning for restoring freedom of passage to Berlin, if Allied probes are physically obstructed. The U.S. is most anxious to have an agreed plan for the restoration of passage; such military action would undoubtedly be restricted to the local area of rightful passage.

b. As we know, the purpose of restoring freedom of passage would be to focus attention on the fact that the Allies recognize their responsibility to the free people of West Berlin, and to demonstrate that we are determined to maintain our rights of access, and would take all measures necessary to protect our rights.

c. The tripartitely agreed document* entitled "Berlin Contingency Planning", dated 4 April 1959, directs that the military authorities of the Three Powers will also plan more elaborate military measures in Europe. These intensified measures include those to be implemented after Allied traffic has been forcibly obstructed, and readily observable, in order to increase pressure on the USSR and the GDR.

2. To date our governments have not received from General Norstad a plan for restoring freedom of passage after Allied traffic has been forcibly obstructed. I am informally advised that a draft plan for more elaborate military measures was submitted to General Norstad by the Live Oak Group and that it was returned by General Norstad for further consideration and recommendations more in conformity with our tripartite agreement of April 4. I cannot urge too strongly the need for prompt response for the Live Oak planners from General Norstad so that we may have a plan for government consideration at the earliest practicable date.

APPENDIX "B"

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
J-5 (PLANS AND POLICY) DIRECTORATE

10 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MURPHY, CHAIRMAN, U.S. COORDINATING GROUP

Subject: Berlin Contingency Planning for Air

Reference: USCINCEUR message* to JCS No. EC-9-3635
dated 7 July 1959

1. The reference message forwards a joint paper defining air access planning and procedural responsibilities vis-a-vis the three embassies in Bonn and the Live Oak Group in Paris. The paper was signed by the Live Oak Chief of Staff and by the U.S., U.K., and French embassies at Bonn.
2. The significant features of the joint paper are: the clarification of procedures for handling joint Bonn Ambassadorial and Live Oak papers; and the establishment of the principles that as a civilian group, the Bonn embassies consider that it would be inappropriate for them to plan beyond the stage of active interference, i.e., the situation in which aircraft are shot down or forced down.
3. The Joint Chiefs of Staff approve the agreements forwarded in reference. It is recommended that the agreements by the three embassies in Bonn and the Chief of Staff of the Live Oak Group be noted by the Ambassadorial Group in Washington and concur in the modification to the tripartite agreements as indicated in the 4 April paper.

/s/ L. J. FIELDS,
Brig. General, USMC,
Deputy Director, J-5